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The Underground

Wednesday, February 26, 2003 Volume 22, Issue 20

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If you are interested in residence, please fill out the required forms (reapplication form and registration form) available in the Student Housing and Residence Life office or on our website:
www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~residences/HowToApplyReturning.html

Deadline for applying for residence is Friday, March 14 at 5pm.

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The Underground

Staff Writers:
Meghan Hurley, Kelly Lisle, Merika Ramundo, Andrew C. Epstein, Lisa Endersby, Ayshia Degia, Sarah Barmak, Veronica Lo, Rob Chung, Marjan Tehrani.

Contributors:
Dave Hale

Mail: The Underground, U of T Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Room S-364
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4 (in the portable)
Phone: 416.287.7054
Fax: 416.287.7055
Email: undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca
Web: http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/~undergnd/

Editor-in-Chief	Chris McKinnon
Associate Editors	Sachin Hingoo
Production Manager	Greg Brown
As't Production	James Relunia
Art Director	John Loerchner
News Editors	Gordon Lane Dan Sharpe
Arts Editor	Keith Friedlander
Life Editor	Christian Lucier
Graphics Editor	Greg Brown
On-Line Editor	Mario Kangeswaren
Advertising Manager	Susie Lopes
Accounting Manager	Michelle Ng
Accounting Assistants	Juliana Lam Millie Ng

Submission (BDSM) Policy

At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous or malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

For a more official-sounding **Letters and Opinions Policy** contact ***undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca***

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Avril-torial

Avril-torial

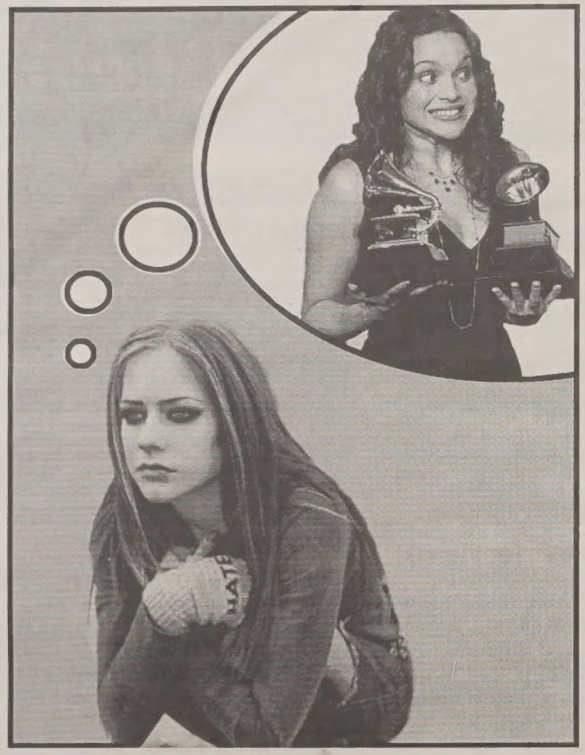
Norah Jones Kicks The Living Shit Out Of Avril Lavigne (Musically) Also, Daredevil Is Not Super

Go ahead and ban me from the I Am Canadian Club for life, but I couldn't be happier that The Avril didn't win a god-damned thing at last night's Grammy Awards. Nominated for a whopping five and winning exactly zero, maybe it's time for the pseudo-punk princess to take a step back and re-examine her image. I mean, face it, she doesn't exactly have the "innocent skank" persona that Britney has, or the "overt skank" image popularized by Mariah and recently co-opted by Christina. The Avril is, as her publicist wouldn't hesitate to tell you, an enigma in her own right. Sure, she's against the whole 'teen idol' thing, but damn, isn't that her on the cover of *Seventeen*? You know what's enigmatic? Plumber's butt on a girl. It's about the only thing that's real about her. Way to represent Canada, trailer-trash. I'm so glad that you won nothing.

Fortunately, with The Avril's miserable failure came the success of Norah Jones, whose album Come Away With Me and soulful ballad, *Don't Know Why* picked up all five of the awards that Miss Marketable Punk didn't, plus three more. And why not? Could it be that we're actually entering one of those "up" periods in music where real talent is appreciated over image? Could it be that the days of the boy/girl band are finally over? Maybe I'm expecting too much, especially since Justin Timberlake is, after all, still alive, and my arch-nemesis Nelly also picked up awards for the misspelled *Hot in Herre* and his duet with Kelly Rowland (you know, that chick from Destiny's Child who isn't Beyonce), *Dilemma*. Foiled again!

And since there's a review of this movie in this issue, I'd just like to mention that the entire Daredevil premise bothers me. Being a "superhero" with a disability such as blindness is ludicrous. You don't see Professor X rolling out into battle in his big, clunky wheelchair, do you? He gets others to do his fighting for him, and for good reason. A "superhero" with a physical disability is not, and should not be, very super at all. In fact, they're probably not much better in a fight than a regular person like, say, Martin Lawrence or Barbara Walters. I have no doubt that Daredevil wins the battle against whoever he's fighting in this movie, especially since his name *is* the title of the film, but I have one strategy for fighting this blind moron that any of you uber-villains out there are free to use: sneak up behind him and bash him with a fucking two-by-four. He'll never see it coming.

Sachin Hingoo
Associate Editor



" I think I'm, like, a lot different than other famous chicks like Britney and whoever else ... They're totally dolled up and have a brand new outfit on all the time. I'm totally not into that. I wear the same clothes over and over."

- Avril Lavigne

word of the week!

sough

sough *\SAUH, SUHF\, intransitive verb:*
To make a soft, low sighing or rustling sound, as the wind.
noun:
A soft, low rustling or sighing sound.
gaucherie \goh-shuh-REE\, noun:
1. *A socially awkward or tactless act.*
2. *Lack of tact; boorishness; awkwardness.*

Regarding the UTSC/ Centennial ~~merger~~ affair

Febrauary 12., 2003

Chris McKinnon
Editor-in-Chief
The Underground
University of Toronto at Scarborough

Dear Sir,

We were pleased to see the interest *The Underground* is taking in the new relationship between UTSC and Centennial College. However, the writers of articles that have recently appeared (SuperBuild Funding May Not Be So Super For UTSC, Jan. 29; Joint-Programme in Journalism is no match for Ryerson, Feb. 5) appear not to be fully aware of the facts.

UTSC's cooperation with Centennial was not a condition of their SuperBuild funding; rather, the fact that Centennial will have a fine new facility on our land makes collaboration in the delivery of joint programs easier for the institutions and more convenient for students. In addition, funds from the leasing arrangement have enabled the construction of the ARC, with is excellent new facilities for teaching and learning, for the benefit of UTSC students.

Centennials students will have no privileges relating to the use of UTSC facilities (library, health servlces, athletics etc.) although students in joint programs, who will register through UTSC, will, of course, enjoy the same access as other UTSC students. All of Centennial's teaching of joint program students will be done in Centennial's facilities, so there will be no additional pressure on UTSC classrooms.

The University of Toronto has been offering joint programs with another community college for at least 25 years, a fact which does not appear to have in any way tarnished the reputation of the U of T degree. On the contrary, the selective development of programs that combine the strengths of a college and a university offers new and exciting educational opportunities to students. Prior to the development of the first of our joint programs with Centennial, we conducted an on-line survey of UTSC students. Of over 50 responses received, only two were negative about the idea of joint programs. All of the proposed programs have been approved by six levels of university committees, all of which have student membership (UTSC's Program & Curriculum Subcommittee, Academic Policy & Programs Committee, Academic Board, and Executive Committee of the University of Toronto's Governing Council). This careful and lengthy process of review ensures that the programs meet quality standards for the U of T degree.

Some particular criticisms were directed at the program in Journalism, so we would like to add the following information. All of the professionally oriented courses that Centennial will contribute to the joint program were selected from the two-year Fast-Track Program offered by Centennial to university graduates. This work can be combined with UTSC courses in any of many fields, such as Biology, Drama, Economics, International Studies, Health Studies, and so on, not only English or Political Science. Hence, students may prepare to pursue the profession in any of a variety of specialised contexts. The design of the program is intended to present an alternative to the established, and deservedly respected, programs at Ryerson and Carleton.

Graduates of the joint program will receive an Honours B. A. and their transcript will record completion of the Specialist Joint Program in Journalism. Hence, although they will not have a Bachelor of Journalism degree, they can rightly represent themselves on their resumes as having a degree in Journalism. It is not necessary to have a professional degree in the field to excel as a journalist – witness the professional success of UTSC grad David Onley of *City Pulse* (B.A. 1975), who is now taking an active interest in the new join program.

Centennial faculty include Robert Fisher (*CBC News* and former *Global News* anchor), Victor Malarek (*Globe & Mail* and formerly of the *5th Estate*), John Lott (sports reporter for the *National Post*), and Ted Borris (author and *CBC personality*). We are also delighted that last year John Stackhouse, Foreign Editor for the *Globe & Mail*, taught a UTSC course on media and international development that is listed as an option in the program.

By taking one additional semester to comoplee the field experience, hjournalism joint program students will also qualify for ta diploma from Centennial. Graduates of Centennial's Diploma in Journalism have an excellent record of success in securing positions positions in the field. For example, within 6 months of graduation, 95% of the class of 2000 had found work in television, radio, newspapers, and magazines, and in communications and research roles in government departments such as the Premier's office and the Ministry of the Attorney General. Recewnt Centennial grads are journalists in major media organizations, a few examples of which are *Toronto Star* (Natalie Henry, 03), *Toronto Sun* (Chris Doucette, 02), *Globe & Mail* (Carol Cooper, 02) *Ottawa Citizen* (Jennifer Morrison, 02), *CHED* newstalk radio, Edmonton (Dave de Jongh, 02), *TSN* (Kashif Arshad, Ryan Wheeler, Kevin Duncan, 02), *CTV* (Anita Kovacs, 01), and *680 News* (Sultan Ameerali, 02).

UTSC and Centennial are committed to providing an excellent educational experience to students in their joint programs. We look forward to a long and successful partnership.

Susan E. Horton
VP (Academic) and Dean
University of Toronto at Scarborough

E. Wayne Dowler
Acting Chair, Division of Humanities
University of Toronto at Scarborough

Editor's Note: This letter has been edited for length.

letters letters

A letter from crazies!
(hopefully, the first of many)

From: The wonderful people
To: undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca
Subject: wonderful day!

Hi we are Luke's secret following we love

__lukefictitious.___

give us a L
give us a U
give us a K
give us a E

WHAT DOSE THAT SPELL? CAN'T YOU GUESS? LUKE! LUKE! YEA!!!!!!
2 4 6 8 who do we appreciate
NOW MORE THAN EVER WE LOVE FICTITIOUS!
And thats why we are putting up our very own fan site for
Mr. Fictitious!!!!!!!!!!!!!

we are even giving you this special notice in advance!!!!!
congratulations to you!
have a nice day
P.S.
We only send this letter to people who we feel would enjoy this
we decide this by the way of our physic ability.
please be nice to us
and visit our fan site once it's up

IF YOU EMAIL THIS LETTER TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS
YOU'LL HAVE GOOD LUCK AND BETTER FORTUNE COOKIES!
And maybe win the lottery {if you play}

FELLOWSHIP IN ADVANCEMENT
at
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Are you a recent or soon-to-be graduate?

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* PHILANTHROPY

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The University of Toronto is looking for highly motivated candidates who are committed to higher education, voluntarism and philanthropy for a 12 month internship starting in September 2003.

Application deadline: Friday February 28, 2003
Visit : www.alumni.utoronto.ca/stayconnected/career.htm
Paper copies of the application form are available at the front desk.
J. Robert S. Prichard Building
21 King's College Circle
between 9:00am – 5:00pm
or contact **Karen Papazian at (416) 946-8371** or
karen.papazian@utoronto.ca

The News In Brief...

That's right, she's wearing a strap-on! Smile with pride, mom and dad!

GRRLfest is cool

GRRLfest has tattoos and sex toys. Yet, according to the coordinators, there are only a few men brave enough to walk up to the tables.

GRRLfest was created by a group of women in direct response to what they felt was a lack of voice and politics in regards to women's issues here at UTSC. While there is indeed a Women's Centre, it is small and the general feeling is that there is a lack of women's space on campus.

The program volunteers are boisterous and enthusiastic, and are passionate about an issue that is often overlooked (hence the need for GRRLfest).

More exciting than acupuncture, this action-oriented festival is both intriguing and frightening. Tables are laden with flyers for events, information pamphlets, stickers, and "Positive Space" temporary tattoos. Not to mention dildos. And vibrators. And strap-ons. They even have their own t-shirts.

GRRLfest is not about radical feminism, but about freedom and peace.

GRRLfest events this week:

Wednesday:
Healthy Relationships Workshop. (B359) 12-2pm (exclusive to women and transfolk)
Anti-Oppression Workshop. (S357) 2-4pm
Media Workshop. (B264) 5-7pm
Thursday:
WENDO (Teaching Studio at the Key) 2:15-4:15pm (exclusive to women and transfolk)
Independent Film Showing (b264) 5-7pm
Friday:
Iraq Discussion: Speaker from Women Opposing War Everywhere. (S221) 2-4pm

SCSU ELECTION CANDIDATES

Be on the lookout for these people; since they will potentially decide how your school year will be last year if they win. Make them represent YOU:

PRESIDENT:
Dan Bandurka
Brad Meisner
Scott Tremblay
Carrie Shultz

VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMICS:
Jessica Mariano
Preet Virdi

VICE-PRESIDENT OPERATIONS:
Jacinda Clarke
Sanna Szeto

VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENTS:
Anjali Mohan

CLUBS OFFICER:
Fragile Gbego-Tossa
Jon Agg

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OFFICER:
Zawadi Nyambu

LIFE SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE:
Alana Harrington
Ishraq Alim

HUMANITIES REPRESENTATIVE:
Jeff Rybak

COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE:
Subhi Farah

SOCIAL SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE:
Chanel Chung

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE:
Virata Thaivasigamony

PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES REPRESENTATIVE:
(Vacant)

The SAC (not the SCSU) nomination period is still open, and will be until this Friday, February 28th. It is encouraged that you think about running for an executive position, or becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Check out www.sac.utoronto.ca for a nomination package, or call 416.978.4911 ext. 229 for more information. (Beware, the website might be inaccurate with dates). If you choose not to do this, at least become aware of the final list of candidates and their positions, and then vote.

Gordon Lane and (sometimes, but mostly not) Dan Sharpe
News Editors
brokennewseditors@hotmail.com

Phase 5 Residences

Marjan Tehrani
Staff Writer

Before the plans for the new housing are drawn up for the future first-year students, a budget will be designed to suit all parties involved.

With next years' increase in the number of students at UTSC, and the greater number who will be living on campus as a result, new dorms are being planned, and labeled as Phase 5. In the past, there have been some instances where plans have been made, however, these plans have not been realized because there was not enough available funding. This time however, with the idea of new dorms in mind, a budget is being developed which will be followed up by the plan for its actual construction. This way, there will be no disappointments when certain aspects of the new dorms are not constructed. It has been estimated that Phase 5 will be built on a budget of approximately fifty-four thousand dollars per dorm house.

Right now, only about 50 full-time residence students are on the $1500 meal plan. The new dorms are being built solely for first-year students who will be younger then those of previous years. With this in mind, the new building will no longer contain private kitchens for personal cooking. However, there is talk that the kitchens will be replaced by a new meal plan conjoined with the school cafeteria. They will have no choice but to buy their food unless they bring hot plates from home.

The new residences will either be dormitory, or suite styles. The dormitory style is similar to many of those on the St. George Campus. They will be in the form of a corridor filled with private bedrooms. Each bedroom will be occupied by only one student, and they will have to share bathrooms with the other people on their floor. The suite styles will be much more personal in the way that they are designed. Two people will share a common area, and a bathroom. It will basically be like the dorms that exist right now, except they will be single bedrooms, and two housemates will share the common area and the bathroom.

The question of where the new residence will be built is still on the table. So far, Phase 5 will have a footprint of 3000 square metres, be 4 floors high, and hold 150 rooms. However, this will probably have to be adjusted depending on where the structure will be located. Since it will be for first-year students, the school wants the dorms to be close to the school. At first, there was talk about them being built behind Phase 3, however, this was soon taken off the table due to UTSC taking the environmentally conscious stance and not wanting to cut down any trees. There are two more options that the school is still reviewing; Phase 5 will either be built behind the parking lot, or near Phase 1. There had also been talk about it being built down by the Miller Lash house, however it has been decided that it will be too far away from the school.

In the future, if there is a Phase 6 built, it will go across the street, and it will most likely provide housing for older students. If this does happen, Phase 3 will be turned into housing for those students with spouses and/or kids. This way, these students will not have to leave the campus to find affordable housing.

Weekly Haiku

by Sachin Hingoo

Oh Avril Lavigne
Your leather cuffs are so punk
Too bad your songs aren't.

CALL-OUT TO ALL PART-TIME STUDENTS!

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Time commitment: at least 3 hrs/month.
Food, travel, family care expenses are reimbursed.

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FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE SCSU OFFICE, ROOM R-3042
(416) 287-7047

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS AT THE ELECTIONS, AT
THE APUS ASSEMBLY OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:
WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH 2003
5:30PM-7:00PM
SIDNEY SMITH HALL, 100 ST GEORGE ST, ROOM 1088 (1ST FLOOR)
(ON THE ST GEORGE CAMPUS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.APUS.UTORONTO.CA
SUNDARAM.APUS@UTORONTO.CA
416-978-7594

"GAS! GAS! GAS!"

The Toronto Star jumps on the bandwagon of fear...

Chris McKinnon
Editor-in-Chief

There it is. I open the "World" section of last Sunday's *Toronto Star* and find the headline "Gas! Gas! Gas!" screaming at me from the front page. The pictures show military personel in full bio-chemical suits, *Star* reporters dressed in emergency chem-suits and details of the emergency kits that the reporters would use in the field if they came under biochemical attack.

I was hooked. Who doesn't love an article about anthrax and mustard gas, and horror stories about your skin melting into pus as airborne chemicals burn the christ out of your throat and lungs?

It's no secret how Torstar (the parent company that owns *The Toronto Star* and *Toronto Metro*) sells its papers: Sensationalism. You picked up that copy of the *Metro* because Avril Lavigne was on the cover. The article on the inside doesn't even make mention of her, but by the time you realise that, it's too late. You're already reading the *Metro*.

Now for the most part Torstar is pretty good about all this. Sure, they tricked you into picking up the *Star*, but once you get inside, the content is fair to good and the commentary isn't half bad. So Torstar has ethics. Good for them.

But then there is this article about chemical and biological emergency training... Compelling story? Yes. But necessary or relevant to most Torontonians (who, incidentally, won't really be at the front)? No.

The "Gas! Gas! Gas!" article was pure media masturbation. It titillates, but gives you no new or useful information. What's more is that the article is crazy alarmist. Of course, the reporter, Rosie DiManno, writes as though she's doing us all a favour by keeping us abreast of how horrible biological and chemical weapons are. Weapons of mass destruction, she tells us, could really hurt civilians in Iraq. Okay. Gotcha. So is this a news article? Nope. But it is in the world news section, and on the first page of that section to boot... I guess that makes it "human-interest masquerading as news." Yup, sounds about right.

So here I am writing a nothing article about a nothing article. Do I have a point? Well, yeah. The fear-mongering going on with respect to this war in Iraq is outrageous. I do, sometimes, maintain a certain amount of respect for the editorial standards of objectivity and balance that the *Star* usually espouses. And I don't even mind that they use big sensationalist pictures and scary headlines to make me pick up their paper and read it... So long as what I end up reading is informative or somehow worthwhile. And while learning about biological weapons is unassailably cool, it isn't really useful at all to me or anyone else. I probably should have stopped reading as soon as I got to the part where DiManno is saying "In the event of a chemical attack, [you will have] an of nine seconds" in which to get your gas mask out, turn your back to the wind, lean over and get the mask on, all the while exhaling forcefully to expel any contaminants you might have already inhaled. Nine seconds. And you need to have a gas mask with you? That's it, if Toronto is attacked with chemical weapons, I don't stand a chance.

And that is exactly what people all over North America are thinking. Army surplus stores are selling out of gas masks and chemical protection suits. Never mind that you'd have to be already wearing all of this equipment for it to be effective in any sort of attack, or that the gas masks, in particular, are probably expired (the Canadian Armed Forces didn't want them after all...). Never mind that even if you had a functioning gas mask with you during an attack, the chances of your untrained-self getting it on your face in time to prevent your lungs from dissolving are nil.

Am I afraid? Not really. If we get gassed, so be it. There's no rational way for me to prepare for it. I'll worry when the time comes, if it comes.

And while I'm bagging on fear-mongering, I'd like to send a psychic bitch-slap at George W. Bush. Pretty much every time he speaks, he says something like "We will not live in fear" or "We will not be intimidated." But then you have the White House, or the Defense Secretary, or whoever, coming out twice a week to put the American people (and Canadians by proximity) on some new alert: Yellow, Orange, Pink. Where exactly is this vigilance that we keep hearing about? Does that mean storing 6 weeks worth of canned goods in my pantry? Building a bomb-shelter in my little backyard? Buying a gas mask and full chemical suit? Keeping a close eye on Arab-looking young men, and their briefcases and shoes?

I digress... Oh no, wait... I don't. DiManno's article finishes up with a tidy little admonition:

"And, oh yeah, biological agents can be dispersed via ventilation and water systems. Perhaps this WMD Primer will convince skeptics about the necessity of disarming Saddam and the peril of permitting him to slither away yet again from U. N. sanctions backed by the threat of war."

So I guess DiManno's article wasn't about nothing after all... All along she was selling us war with fear, just like someone else I know.

A Desperate Plea/Call To Arms

Sachin "Without the SAC My First Name Is Just Hin" Hingoo
Associate Editor

This upcoming election could very well change the face of UTSC as we know it. That's neither hyperbole nor the tagline for the new Terminator flick. It's the straight diggity.

You complain about our lack of funding. You complain about tuition money going to services downtown that you never use. You complain about everything, so shut up because no one even likes you. It's time to stop complaining and, well, complain, but with a ballot this time.

On March 5 and 6, in addition to voting in the SCSU Elections, the students of UTSC will also have the opportunity to voice their opinion on another matter of extreme importance. See, it's all fine and good to vote for the members of SCSU, but it has been argued that the power of this organization is rather limited by the larger, overarching incarnation of same - the SAC. The Student's Administrative Council governs all three of U of T's campuses, and the SCSU's contention is that SAC is too focused on issues pertaining to the St. George campus, and it tends to neglect poor old UTSC. As a result, the SCSU will be going to the students with a plebiscite (a word I didn't know until last week) that will essentially ask one question of you: Should the SCSU become the sole representation for UTSC, effectively kicking SAC off of this campus? A 'yes' vote would have drastic ramifications, including a re-allocation of the fees that we currently pay SAC to the SCSU. In case I haven't driven the point home, this issue is important, fuckers.

Speaking of important issues, as Christian mentioned in his last article ("VOTE, Idiot!", Feb.12), both the SAC and SCSU Elections are coming up, and will be held on March 5-6. From Feb. 24 (hey, that's this week!) until the elections, you will have the opportunity to meet the candidates through their campaigns, as well as through a SCSU candidates' forum on Feb. 27. I encourage *every* UTSC student, part-time or full-time, Computer Science or Arts Management, to please, PLEASE take some time out to get to know the candidates and their positions so that you can make an informed decision at the election. I don't want to have to hold your hand here, people. I know you're busy, and this campus isn't known for its enthusiasm on any issue, but to be blunt, this election will determine if next year will be a banner one for UTSC, or another steaming turd. The newly-elected SCSU will determine how and *if* the Student Centre will run, and that building, in this editor's opinion, will be the key to fixing the morale problem in this place. Of course, for that to happen, it is imperative that you get off your lazy asses and vote. More importantly, let's try not making your vote so random this year and actually knowing who the candidates are and what they stand for, rather than picking based on how much you like their name or that shade of neon pink they used for their posters. Here at the Underground, we'll do what we can to help you learn about the candidates, but thus far, only a couple of writers have signed up to find every student on this campus, throw them in burlap sacks, and physically drag them out to vote. Some of you will have to get there on your own.

And as a postscript, I'd just like to address this to *anyone* that has ever written us a complaint about any aspect of this institution, and that includes any writer for this publication. If you whine and bitch about what you hate about this place, and then decide not to vote or participate in this election, then you are a dick. If you won't take an interest in who is running *your* school, an institution to whom you pay thousands of dollars every year, then you deserve nothing more than shit for a school year. If you don't take an interest in your school and vote, why in the fuck should anyone else?

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Play: The Laramie Project
Written by: Moisés Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theatre Project
Originally Produced in New York by: Roy Gabay and the Tectonic Theatre Project
Associate Producers: Mara Isaacs and Hart Sharp Entertainment
Director: Joel Greenberg
Starring: Lesley Dowey, Deborah Drakeford, Jonathan Goad, Marvin Hinz, Alison Lawrence, Mark McGrinder, Kimwun Perehinec, Dylan Roberts

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

When the world first heard about the attack on Mathew Sheppard, his hometown of Laramie, Wyoming, not only had to deal with the issue at hand, they also had to deal with massive media coverage. For outside observers the only information available was the information the media chose to broadcast. In such situations the truth can easily be confused with false assumptions. Four weeks after the incident, members of the Tectonic Theatre Project decided to head to Laramie to find out the truth.

Armed with recorders and their curiosity, they set up several interviews with the people of Laramie, Matthew's friends, counselors, officers involved with the case and many others. Once they were finished, they assembled the recording into an original play. The eight-member ensemble and a modest set made for an entire re-enactment of life in Laramie at the time of Mathew's death. The ensemble portrayed approximately sixty citizens with varying degrees of involvement in the case. Their enunciations and expressions created genuine characters with a varying range of backgrounds and age.

It was amazing to watch the cast as they flitted from character to character and completely embodied their new personas. As the story progressed from one boy's chance discovery of Matthew on the fence to his funeral, the range of people affected by the event grew. They showed the fear expressed by some members of the gay community, the different methods religious factions used to deal with the crime and the discomfort of most at having to deal with a seemingly merciless press.

When it came time for the court scenes, one of Matthew's attackers, another youth, was finally portrayed. Aaron McKinney was just another kid from Laramie; he had a girlfriend and a child, now he was going to be imprisoned for two consecutive life sentences. To most this unfortunate affair seems to be a waste of several lives, especially Matthews.

However, as can be noted by some of his father's remarks used in the play, his parents did not feel as though their son's death was unproductive. "Matt's beating, hospitalization and funeral focused worldwide attention on hate. Good is coming out of evil. People have said, 'Enough is enough.' You screwed up, Mr. McKinney. You made the world realize that a person's lifestyle is not a reason for discrimination, intolerance, persecution and violence. This is not the 1920's, 30's and 40's of Nazi Germany. My son died because of your ignorance and intolerance. I can't bring him back. But I can do my best to see that this never, ever happens to another person or another family again. As I mentioned earlier, my son has become a symbol- a symbol against hate and people like you; a symbol for encouraging respect for individuality, for appreciating that someone is different, for tolerance. I miss my son but I'm proud to be able to say that he is my son."

Overall, the play was sobering and inspiring at the same time. Sobering, by the hate and malevolence we were forced to acknowledge by viewing the play and inspiring by all the good things that came from Matthew's death, such as, The Matthew Sheppard foundation and an increased interest in passing the Hate Crimes Protection Act.

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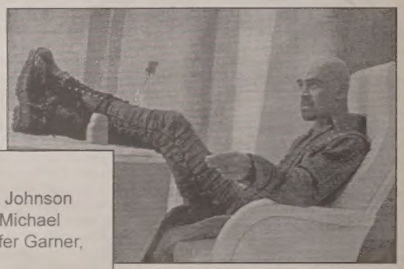
reviews

Take the dare... or don't, whatever

Comic movie is fun but flaky

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor



Film: Daredevil
Director: Mark Steven Johnson
Starring: Ben Affleck, Michael Clarke Duncan, Jennifer Garner, Colin Farrell
Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Daredevil is the most recent classic comic hero whored out by Marvel comics to Hollywood for his own movie. Before I start this review I'd like to state that *USA Today* described this movie as being "as great as it is cool". I think you should all take a moment to be thankful that *The Underground* isn't *USA Today*. On to the review.

Ben Affleck plays Matt Murdock, blind lawyer by day, crime fighter in NYC's Hell's Kitchen by night. As a child, Matt was bullied and pushed around until an accident with some spilled radioactive waste cost him his sight. However, due to the general rule that anyone who survives a radioactive incident will somehow gain amazing powers, young Matt found that his four remaining senses were boosted to superhuman levels. His sharp hearing provides him with a form of sonar, while his sensitive touch makes him incredibly nimble and agile. After his father is killed by a local mob boss, Matt grows up determined to use his powers to protect the little guy and punish evil-doers.

There are a number of ways of approaching this movie. As a comic book fan, it shouldn't be too hard to get excited about it, but with so many comic-based movies being made recently, the novelty of seeing an old franchise favorite in live action is beginning to wear thin. Iron Man is the most recent casualty on this growing list and it's really reaching the point where I can't care how or why they'd make a movie about any given hero. I mean, why don't they just make a movie about Namor the Sub-Mariner so I can slit my wrists and just get it over with.

As a movie fan, it's harder to get interested in the 'man without fear'. He's always been an interesting hero and the talents who have written him in the past have proven his versatility. A lot of people will think Daredevil is just a Batman rip-off but these people are probably ignorant. He's actually an original and well-conceived character. However, in the short frame of a movie he becomes just another choreographed crime fighter with a different gimmick.

Despite all these detrimental facts, *Daredevil* still holds up surprisingly well and even with the growing tedium, it hasn't reached the point where the movie is just a bland moneymaker (maybe that will be *The Hulk*). The plot is well put together and moves along at a good pace. While the acting comes off as forced in most scenes, the actors do a respectable job bringing their characters to life. Colin Farrell's portrayal of the completely insane assassin Bull's-eye is colourful, Michael Clarke Duncan's Kingpin is appropriately menacing and Jennifer Garner's Electra (the ninja/love interest) is nice to look at. Affleck's banter with Jon Favreau's Foggy Nelson seems natural and is enjoyable. Technical features of the film such as Daredevil's sonar and certain action scenes are very well done. The gritty but stylish atmosphere of the movie works well. The soundtrack is excellent. Kevin Smith even makes a cameo. What's not to like?

Well, for one thing, some scenes are kind of hokey. There are several stupid parts that will make you groan. The beginning flashback explaining the hero's origins kind of drags on. Joe Pantoliano was disappointingly irritating, and I'm still wondering how you can hear someone's irises. In the end, the movie doesn't have much substance once you get past the style and novelty.

I could keep weighing the pros and cons and never come to a conclusion, so I should summarize. The bottom line is that *Daredevil* is a fun and entertaining movie. Fans may be disappointed, others may be unimpressed, but if you enjoy these kinds of movies, there's no reason why you shouldn't enjoy seeing *Daredevil*. It isn't going to amaze anyone, but it's worth seeing. I'm even kind of thinking about maybe considering the chance of going a second time if someone who hasn't seen it asks me to.

Hey, look at that. I got through a whole article about Ben Affleck without mentioning J Lo and I didn't even... Oh damn it!

John Mayer
Unplugged

Greg Brown
Production Manager

Title: *Any Given Thursday*
Artist: John Mayer
Publisher: Aware/Columbia
Rating: ★★★★☆

Recorded from a concert in his hometown of Birmingham, John Mayer's latest album, *Any Given Thursday*, showcases a selection of the more popular songs from his previous album, *Room For Squares*, along with several new pieces, spread across two discs. One thing longtimg Mayer fans will appreciate is that a lot of the songs come out much differently from the normal radio or album versions, and not entirely due to the fact that the performance is in an actual auditorium as opposed to a recording studio.

In many places throughout the performance, he improvises on the tune of his music, but in a few places he's met with little success. For the first song, "3x5", his voice sounds a little more raspy than usual, to the point where I had to wonder if he just wasn't feeling to well that night. Even though I already knew the song, there were several parts where I found myself guessing at what he was trying to say. There are also a number of awkward moments during "3x5" where it seems like he was trying to take the audience somewhere a little different, then realized it didn't sound too good, and quickly switched back to the original tune. It's not enough to ruin the whole song for you, but in most cases, even if you've never heard the song before, you'll know that something went wrong. Not a good way to start off an album, or a concert.

Luckily, he cleaned things up a bit during the second song, "No Such Thing", his main hit that has been added to several department and convenience store muzak selections. His fine-tuning starts to work out much better, leading to completely different spins on such memorable tunes as "Why Georgia", "Your Body Is A Wonderland", "Love Song For No One", and "Neon". "Neon", the final song for the show, stood out in particular because of it's more upbeat sound as compared to the studio version, and the extra guitar and drum solos that stretch it out to a whopping, yet enjoyable, 10 and a half minutes. Undisputedly, it was a great way to finish things off. In the case of "Why Georgia", he added a 3-minute lead-in, complete with extra lyrics. Although the tune to the lead-in wasn't a perfect match for that of the rest of the song, the lyrics tie the two halves together beautifully, making the transition seem much more natural.

Although there a few places where he turns up the energy a little, for the most part he sticks to the casual, laid-back sound he's become famous for. Even the newer songs, like "Something's Missing", "Message In A Bottle" and "Covered In Rain" do an excellent job of retaining, and in some cases, furthering, his image as someone who is able to recognize the many flaws in his life and the world, but still remains hopeful about his future.

Even if you already own *Room For Squares*, this album is definitely worth picking up. Aside from the different twists he takes with the original melodies, most, if not all, of the older songs feature some sort of extension that further work to enhance the experience. Aside from "Message In A Bottle", the newer songs, which actually make up one third of the album, aren't quite as impressive as "No Such Thing", but they fit in with the rest of his repertoire very nicely, and are sure to make this collection a welcomed addition to your musical library.

We love you John! Even more than Avril Lavigne!

groundworks

Dodge

David Hale

As the Porsche screamed past the mouth of the alleyway Sinn pressed himself into the shadows. He watched as it tore through a red light and around the corner. Glancing around the edge of the alley he watched as the gun barrel slipped back onto the rooftop. Wasting no time he hopped onto the back of his Yamaha Rapier and sped off after the Mako. His silver bike darted and sliced its way through the evening traffic like its name. He leaned his large Ork frame over the bike as he kept his eyes peeled for the escaping car. Ripping through a light he caught sight of the Mako making its way onto the causeway stretching across the Seattle River. Grabbing the hand brake he leaned hard to one side putting the Rapier into a skid. He gunned the engine as the bike turned and kicked it into gear as he jumped a curb. As the nose came down he picked up traction and raced onto the causeway. The Mako was several car lengths ahead and gaining speed. Sinn swerved in between cars until he was two car lengths back. Keeping an eye on the car to make sure he hadn't been noticed he unzipped his motorcycle jacket. The Uzi III thudded gently on his ribcage as it swung on its sling. Accelerating he moved up the small shoulder alongside the passenger door grasping the butt of his SMG. He was trailing behind the Mako by one car length when he noticed a matte black Eurocar Westwind coming up fast. The sniper was coming to finish the job no doubt. Changing lanes he turned taking aim at the following car. Ducking low on the bike he fired a burst at the driver's side window of the Westwind. The bullets hit and ricocheted off without scratching the paint. Hearing the shots Morgan turned and knelt in the passenger seat. Taking aim with his good arm, his left dangling at his side, he fired. Sinn swerved at the Guardian went off, the shell bouncing off the armored Westwind. Inside the tinted windows of the Eurocar Rick O'Shea sat loading a fresh clip into his Colt M23 assault rifle. Next to him in the driver's seat sat Quicksilver jacked into the dashboard of the Westwind.

"Who is the big grunge on the bike?" Quicksilver asked, his eyes closed, the sensors feeding his brain all of the necessary information.

"Third party acquisitionist I assume. Nothing you can't deal with," replied O'Shea.

"Natch."

Back in the Mako Morgan was shouting to Zen over the roar of the wind. "We got company!"

Zen nodded and put the pedal to the floor as Morgan fired a couple more rounds at the following bike. Sinn dropped back to avoid being hit. Behind him the Westwind closed the distance and moved to ram him. The front bumper slammed hard into the rear wheel of the Rapier sending the bike spinning in an uncontrollable spin. Sinn bent his knees and launched himself into the air as the bike overturned. The hydraulic jacks in his legs lifted his large frame a good two meters into the air as the Westwind flew past underneath him. The Eurocar turned hard to miss the jackknifing bike and moved to intercept the Mako. Sinn curled into a ball in the air and landed feet first into a shoulder roll. The jacks took the brunt of the fall as he rolled to counter the momentum. He rolled to his feet and sidestepped a passing car as it blew past.

"Frag! Motherfragging slitch!!" he screamed into the night air. Turning he brought the Uzi III out of his coat and waved down an oncoming car. As the car rolled to a stop he punched through the window and dragged the driver out of his seatbelt and onto the street.

"Sorry but I need this," he spat quickly at the norm on the ground. Jumping in he gunned the engine and raced after his prey.

* * *

The Mako took a hard left as it wheeled off the causeway, the Westwind following without trouble.

"Did the grunge get slagged?"

"Couldn't tell. But he's slowed down nonetheless. Get me in closer so I can take a shot." O'Shea said as he rolled down his window.

O'Shea leaned his slight elven body out the window and nestled the rifle in his shoulder. Morgan fired a few more rounds at the Westwind and ducked to reload. The rifle in O'Shea's hands bucked sending a burst through the ragtop and into the interior. Zen grunted a bullet found her back through her seat and vest. Her eyes widened for a moment but she kept a straight face. As the second burst was loosed she slammed on the brakes and swung the wheel. The Porsche went into a spin and ended up facing the other way. She pounced on the accelerator racing back towards the causeway. The Westwind countered by screeching to a halt in a T-Stop. O'Shea gripped the door and almost lost his rifle out the window as the car swung around.

"Jesus!" He exclaimed sliding back into his seat.

* * *

Jimmy Sinn weaved fiercely through the traffic on the causeway in his stolen Americar. He drove the drekbox for what it was worth, while cursing himself for having lost his target. He began cursing the driver of the Westwind when he spotted the tattered Mako speed past the end of the causeway heading north. He turned hard to follow the car keeping the pedal to he floor. Coming up behind him was the Westwind too fast to stop. Quicksilver turned at the last second bumping hard into the rear left side of the Americar. The sound of busting glass and twisting metal filled the air as the Westwind spun out of control. The crash hit Quicksilver like a blow to the head his senses reeling as the sensors gave a detailed display of the damage incurred. As the Westwind spun Quicksilver lay in his seat his head fogged with pain. The Westwind hopped a curb and took flight right through the display window of a department store. Glass and wood shattered as the car overturned and slid to a halt in the maternity section of the store. Sirens could be heard en route.

Sinn controlled the skid and managed to keep the Americar on track as he followed the Mako a few cars back. The Mako crisscrossed through the darker parts of Seattle as if making sure it wasn't followed. Their course led them to the pier. Sinn watched from a nearby alley as the pair got out and pushed the wreckage of the Mako off the dock into the murky waters below. The pair then hailed a cab and Sinn followed as they led him to the front steps of an old dentist's office. Sinn ditched the Americar in an alley a few blocks away leaving it to be devoured by the local rif-raff. Taking up a position across from the office in a dilapidated old apartment he watched. Waiting.

* * *

Lone Star arrived on the scene, lights flashing and radios squawking. The Westwind still humming as it lay upside down amid broken cribs and baby toys. The driver and passenger were nowhere to be found. Just a dead security guard with a hole in his head. Detective Hammett stepped out of his Toyota Elite and surveyed the scene. The display window was shattered as well as most of the shelving, which had been turned over or knocked down. The Westwind was upside down on top of a few broken cribs. The sound of the engine mixed with a mobile, as it lay almost dreamlike.

"Somebody shut that thing down, and call forensics to the scene," he spoke taking charge of the situation.

A nearby constable piped up "They've already been called sir."

"Good. Get a mechanic down here too I want a profile of the vehicle. Were there any witnesses?"

"Just one sir. The security guard there called it in but ceased transmission shortly after. Looks like a light pistol at close range. Helluva shot though. Several motorists saw the crash, two or three cars. The other two drove off north."

"Run ballistics on the bullet, I have a feeling this has something to do with the destruction in the east side earlier today. Check to see if the traffic cameras caught anything, and get me a soykaf."

"Yessir!"

Hammett frowned and leaned on the hood of his Elite, it was going to be a long night.

Andrew Epstein

life

Double Cohort Concerns

Lisa Endersby
Staff Writer

Your pupils are dilated, there's sweat running down your forehead, your arm is trembling as you slowly reach out and grasp the instrument... double clicking your way into the harrowing world of university applications.

Yes that was a cheesy opening and yes it's very possible that the online application process isn't as harrowing as I've made it out to be, but those same symptoms could easily be attributed to thousands of students this year vying for a spot amongst the dizzying heights of higher education. The double cohort year is in full swing, but what exactly does it have to do with us here at UTSC? Why should we be worried? We've already acquired a place within the institution, we have no fears about coming back next year (except maybe those phobias of the how-will-I-pay-my-tuition or what-will-my-GPA-look-like variety).

Here's a frightening statistic from the Council of Canadian Universities: 'At the peak of the double cohort in 2004-2005, some 33,500 additional secondary school students could be applying to Ontario's universities.' That could mean either close to 33,500 more first year students in college or university next year, or close to 33,500 disappointed teens who will have to decide on how to most effectively waste a year of their lives. Once again, this all seems quite depressing for grade 12 and OAC students, but it doesn't seem to matter for those already close to finishing their stint at university. Does the double cohort really matter to UTSC students? Does anybody really care about the plight of those 33,500 or are we merely content in the knowledge that we had the common sense and fantastic luck to get out when we did. To find out, I did what any intrepid reporter would do: I asked my friends for their opinion.

One of my friends told me that the biggest effect the double cohort will have on current university students will be that the students who will subsequently move onto higher education will be younger and younger. Because of this, commonplace activities like pub nights might not be as prevalent or will be under stricter control, since a lot of the new first year students will be well below the legal age. Another friend voiced his concern about the greater amount of competition among university students in the coming years. With increasingly high standards for graduate studies, it's going to take a lot more work to stand out in the newly enlarged file of potential candidates. As well, any university or college campus will most likely become a lot more crowded, resulting in even longer waits for important information, including academic advising appointments and help with registration. I also had a friend point out that those students currently in OAC have the advantage on an easier curriculum, and those in grade 12 now have the opportunity to start university sooner. However, she was hard pressed to come up with any real effect the double cohort will have on those of us already in university.

So for right now, the only real recognized effect that the double cohort will have on us current UTSC students seems to be an increase in student population, which will lead not only to overcrowding of the school itself, but also increased demands on all current student services. Those of us who found it difficult to get the help we wanted this year may find it near impossible next year, as the long line-ups and scarcity of resources seem to have little hope for improvement. While we may not be able to sympathize with those unfortunate members of the double cohort, and many of us, especially those first year students who fast tracked their way into university, may be silently commending ourselves on getting out when we did, we will still have to deal with the consequences of the government's constant fiddling with the education system. Though we don't have to worry about getting into university, we're still going to have to worry about how we're going to survive until we get out.

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Campaigning Ends:	Fri Mar 14 @ 6 pm
Election Begins:	Wed Mar 12 @ 6:00 am
Election Ends:	Fri Mar 14 @ 6 pm

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Why does the Attic suck? Why is the I Am Canadian Club so great?

Christian Lucier
Life Editor

I am sure that over reading week a number of us had the opportunity to go and check out some new and exciting places. Specifically, I am talking about clubs, bars, and such. Reading week, even though thought to be a time where we can catch up on our studies, presents us with the opportunity to expand beyond campus; a chance to see what life is like on the "outside", so to speak. I have done exactly this over the reading week, broken the shackles of UTSC, and stepped outside. Upon my departure, I thought about the places I was visiting and the versions of these places we have on campus. It was then it dawned upon me; the Attic and the Student Village Centre (SVC) are poor excuses for places where the student body can socialize. These facilities are a shoddy replica of what we want on campus. Certainly The Attic and SVC are not being used to their potential, and because of the complexity of campus rules and policies, never will be. Our only choice is to take student life and socializing off campus, a practice that some UTSC clubs and organizations have been implementing. However, does getting together off campus grounds sort of diminish that university event feel? Certainly.

The Attic and SVC are inadequate for a number of reasons. For starters, they are not designed for any specific function. Sometimes The Attic turns into a pub, sometimes it transforms into an expo, while others times The Attic becomes a classroom. The same goes for the SVC. The problem with running a facility like this is that it lacks definition and consistency. When The Attic and SVC turn into anything, they resemble the "watered down" version. This affects people in many ways. For example, when I go to a pub night at The Attic, there is a bar, but not really. I will have a few choices of beer and about three liquors to choose from. My choices are limited because the bar in the Attic will be cleaned up and erased once the night ends. The setup in The Attic is not very efficient either for social gatherings. The space is divided into two rooms. One room is a cluttered mess of couches, while the other contains massive tables that take up a ton of space and are not very ideal.

All the above points only motivate UTSC clubs and organizations to take their events off campus. Last week, the I Am Canadian Club rented the top floor of The Fox and The Fiddle in Pickering and provided transportation from UTSC to the bar. Let's just say that The Fox and The Fiddle makes The Attic look like, well...an attic. Here is a link to some of the pictures from the event - http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~iacc/frame.html.

These pictures basically show a facility that is designed and capable of holding a great pub night. However, most students who live on or near campus prefer the event to be at UTSC, instead of commuting. So, even if going off campus means having a great place to hold an event, it can still damage the turnout.

There is hope though. With the new Student Center opening up in a year, there will be a lot more facilities. Supposedly, there will be places for clubs to meet, as well as a restaurant/pub. The new Student Center may free us from depending on the Attic and SVC for everything, meaning most social events will return to being held on campus.

UTSC events arise out of the fact that we all go to UTSC. It would be nice to have the facilities to hold the events accordingly. In the years to come, that may well be a very good possibility.

Diaspora Review

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

Panel: Let Us Compare Diasporas

The opening panel for the symposium brought together a more diverse group of speakers to present a range of examples of different diasporas. The panelists included Norm Ravvin, Chair of Jewish studies at Concordia, Kanishka Goonewardena from U of T's department of geography and George Elliot Clarke from U of T's English department. It seemed like it would be interesting to see how they're different views of the impact of diasporas on Canadian culture might clash. The lectures given however focused more on the features unique to each cultures experiences, offering little in the way of what they had in common.

Ravvin gave a lengthy speech about the nature of the Hebrew language and the drastic changes that have shaped it over the century. Goonewardena focused strongly on the meaning of a diaspora as it is reflected in our city, a long presentation which seemed to boil down to the fact that certain minorities have larger unemployment rates than others. Clarke spoke avidly about the position of the individual within the diaspora.

While their separate presentations were all informative and somewhat revealing, I question the point of having a panel of presenters, especially when dealing with an issue of cultural collision between diverse representatives, when there is so little interaction or debate between them. Still, perhaps I was too distracted to appreciate the real weight of their presentations as there were certainly points when I wasn't following along, especially during Clarke's accelerated speech.

Kekeli African Drum and Dance Ensemble

Thursday, during the lunch break between panels, the Meeting Place played host to the African drum ensemble known as Kekeli. Giving a varied performance of customary dance routines and the fast paced rhythm of West African traditional drums, Kekeli consists of percussionists and dancers who live and breathe African music. The incomparable Kwasi Dunyo, winner of a Music Africa award for Outstanding Traditional Performance, was trained in the tradition of the great master drummers of West Africa. He has taught and performed throughout Canada, the United States, and Bermuda and is currently teaching in the University of Toronto's World Music Program.

Their performance was entertaining and energetic and attracted a large crowd around the overlooking walkways. It even had a few people dancing in front of the stage (okay, so they were probably only seven years old... they were still dancing). As one of the official sponsors of the drummers' presentation, The Underground is prepared to take full credit for sponsoring the great performance of these consummate musicians.

The Lord of Darkness answers his hate mail

Or "oh joy! oh rapture! oh happy day!"

Satan's Bakesale

Andrew C. Epstein, (TLOD)

So I take a short absence and suddenly the mailbox explodes. Well I'm back now to defend my thorny crown, so away we go!

First I must respond to a reader that sent in a letter in regards to my column about lovely, lovely Legolas:

Re: A Late Response to "My Elvish Love"

ivel,

While I promise not to go easy on you, I would like to express my deepest thanks. You have proven to me that the student body isn't 100% apathetic. I appreciate the fact that you have an opinion that you want to express, even if it isn't the same as mine (but you're forgiven for that oversight. Although you are not forgiven for not mentioning that Legolas is hot).

In response to your letter, I shall go in order. Let me say right off that I have indeed read the trilogy and used both the books and the films as references. I used the films partially because the filmmaker's interpretations of the text were very close to mine.

To start with Gimli, I never said anything in the article about him being clumsy. I didn't because that only existed in the films and not the novel. I only used references that were contained in both the films and the books. As for him being strong, rugged, and brave as you put it, these are things that I never questioned in the article either. Indeed Gimli is strong and brave. As far as the Elves relationship with the dwarves, there are many instances within the context of the novel where the elves are highly discriminatory to Gimli simply because he is a Dwarf. He is at first not allowed in to the forest of Lothlorien because he is a Dwarf, and then when is allowed, he is forced to go in blindfolded. When Aragorn mentions to the Elf guards that he is a Dwarf sends them in to a fury. I feel that perhaps you need to re-read my article because it seems that you have misinterpreted some of what I said.

In regard to my general perception of the characters being representational of specific races, I feel that you are being a bit too idealistic. Yes we do live in a hierarchical society, and Tolkien created a wonderful metaphor for that. As I said in the article, these aren't my views, just what I perceived from the text, and subsequently the films. I don't have hierarchical views as you seem to think, but I do think that like you, Tolkien was aware that our society creates that kind of system when it comes to perceptions of races and religions. I understand if you can't see any of the resemblance between the races in the novel and real life. It's pretty hard thing to come to terms with the fact that these divisions really exist. We don't really want to admit to each other that we so much bigotry and discrimination. So I understand why it isn't apparent to you, or many others that I've talked to, but I do feel that it's being a bit naïve to say that it isn't there.

However I concede one thing to you. Yes I did indeed conveniently leave out certain races. This wasn't to be sneaky, or to have the article cater to me, it was simply because I am still mulling over certain ideas about the characters that I didn't mention. At the moment for instance, I am leaning towards the idea of the Orcs representing the impoverished classes. I do think however, that you may very well be on to something with your Hobbit idea. It does sort of have a "meek shall inherit the Earth" ring to it, and it might very well be true that the Hobbits were meant to represent innocence becoming the knowledge that will lead the world to peace.

Bear in mind that I am certainly not the first person to see these divisions in the text (as I found out later), however I do feel that they exist. So I recommend you take another look at the novel and think on what I proposed.

Thanx beyond belief for your opinion, I will do my best to keep providing you with a cure for your laziocis.

In the time that I wasn't writing I took a liking to drawing comics in this paper. Well one gentleman didn't take kindly to my comic in the last issue of The Underground, entitled "Fenris: Demon Child". What follows is the original email sent to The Underground, followed by my email conversation with the writer:

Hello,

I often read your newspaper when I come to school, and this week I found quiet possibly the most untasteful comic I have seen yet. On the bottom of page 13, a comic created by Andrew Epstein showed appaling anti-Semetic sentiments which I, as a Jew, found to be very discouraging. In this comic strip, which had absolutely no theme or natural flow as most comics should, a man professes to kill Jesus, and then is interupted by a man who obviously appears to be a Jew (with the Star of David, long beard and blaack hat, very sterotypical) says "Oy Boys, I hate to break it to you, but we did that already" (kill Jesus). The comic strip then continues on with some figure, I have absolutely no idea what it is, attacking a Star of David, and the in the last box appears to be something that I do not want to know what it is.

This comic strip exhalts the idea the Jews killed Jesus Christ, which is one of the oldest and most common anti-Semetic thoughts ever, and has been the catalyst to countless numbers of attacks on Jews around the world in past centuries. The fact that Jews killed Jesus is not true- in fact, evidence suggests that Romans killed Jesus, yet this is besides the point.

A cartoon like this would normally appear in a KKK newspaper, not a student run Univeristy newspaper in a campus that is the most cultarally diverse in the country.

Following this letter, I will follow up on future issues of the Underground and hope to see a written statement made by the editor apologizing for this cartoon. If I notice that no action is taken by the newspaper to apologize for the cartoon soon, I will definetelly take this matter to higher authorities on this campus, including the Dean and the Police.

Do not consider this a threat, rather consider this a warning, that there are students on this campus who are watching closely for any discrimination directed towards them, and that they will act on the initiative to expose it and show the campus community any discrimination towards them.

If you have any questions for me, do not hesitate to ask by email. I have no interst in meeting with any member of this newspaper; all I ask for is a written apology made by the editor for this tasteless, anti-Semetic and disusting cartoon printed in your newspaper. As mentioned above, if this is not done soon, I will take this matter to other authorities on the campus.

J. Konig

Mr. Konig,

My name is Andrew Epstein I am the author of the comic, which you complained about to the underground, and I feel you have misinterpreted my intentions.

As you may have guessed I was born in to a Jewish family. I was bar-mitzvahed, date a Jewish girl, and am familiar with most aspects of the faith, even though I am non-practicing. I was also Vice-President of the Greater Toronto Area Council of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization for young Jews, and was President of the oldest chapter in the city.

I am writing to you (on my own accord) to let you know that you have completely misunderstood my comic. First off bear in mind that comics do not need a "natural flow" as you put it. There are many abstract comic strips in and around the various U of T campus papers. As far as theme goes I was making a few comments and I will explain them to you.

The comic was mostly a play on Jewish humour. I was raised listening people such as Jackie Mason, Mel Brooks, and Red Skeleton. The reason is that he sees that the two main characters of the comic are foolish. They are not supposed to be exalted or emulated. I don't know why anyone would see those characters and then think that I meant them to be looked up to.

The next idea presented is that hate is interchangeable and therefore pointless. When the two characters realize that they can't kill Jesus, they turn around and threaten the Jew. Their racial hatred is blind, like most radical racists. They hate because it gives them a purpose, so it doesn't really matter who they oppress as long as someone is being oppressed. Again, I don't see why one would think that I am promoting this kind of behaviour, when in fact I am making fun of people who would act that way. The act of these characters smashing the magen david, is meant to represent the interchangeable nature of their blind hatred, as they were just as willing to attack christianity just a second before that.

Now as far as Jews killing Jesus go. First off I don't even believe in the existence of Jesus let alone his death. But killing Jesus is something I've been accused of countless times when I attended a christian school for 6 years. Again I was making fun of the ridiculousness of that accusation. It's silly and pointless, and I'm showing just how ridiculous it sounds to blame a culture for your past. It fits in with all those dumb statements such as "arabs are terrorists", it just doesn't make any sense, and this is what I've tried to show.

As for your comments on my final panel, I am quite baffled. Every Passover I am

forced to undergo exposure to Gefilte Fish. I hate the stuff, almost more than any other food. So I just drew a rotten plate of gefilte fish. I don't know what you thought it was, but no one else seems to be unsure about it, including students and parents. I am shocked that you seem to be offended by that frame.

Finally you had a problem with the "stereotypical" look of the jew in my comic. I ask you whether you've even visited the jewish areas of Toronto along Bathurst St. For years while journeying to Bathurst Jewish Centre I've observed Toronto and North York's hasidic jewish population. I hate to break it to you but the men all have long beards and black hats. I drew what I felt was an actual representation of a hasidic jewish man. Why did I choose that specifically? I choose it because many, many people on this campus don't even know what a jew is. I've encountered so many people who know so little about other cultures, that they think jews worship jesus. So in a sense I had to "dumb it down" a bit, so that uncultured people may understand.

I drew a comic that was meant to shock yes, but it was also meant as a statement against mindless hatred and oppression, with a couple of inside Jewish jokes to pay my own little homage to jewish comedy. I don't care whether or not you think it's funny, but I only ask that you re-consider the comic and ask yourself why you were offended. I meant to shock, but shock only means that you want people to think about why they are shocked. Perhaps it was a bit too subtle for the general population, but if we handle things with kid gloves all the time, then we won't make any progress.

I am not angered by your reaction, I only wish to expose the truth in my statement.

Andrew C. Epstein

Hi,

Thanks for the quick response, and I can say that things are cleared up now. First of all, I would like to say that your last name did ring a Jewish tone in my head, which is what made my initial thoughts so bizare. There aren't to many of us at Scarborough campus, so its great to see that I am talking to one.

My only response is that I would recommend you print your reply to me in the next issue, so as to clear up any other confusions anyone else might have had. You see, you did not write any of your intentions, as good as they may be, in the comic, or rather even had no metaphors or shit like that to symbolize what your intentions are when making that comic.

Any joe shmoe off the street (or in this case in the halls) would see this comic as some flagrant anti-Semetic joke, as I did. So maybe you should let the audience know what your intentions are when you draw a cartoon like this.

In responce to have I ever been to Jewish areas of T.O., yes of course I have. I was born in Israel, so I have a pretty clear understanding about Judaism and such. Since you are Bnai Brith you might know of Hashomer Hatzair- I am the head of HH in Toronto.

Anyways, thanks for clearing up what I had thought about the comic. I would still suggest that you guys at the underground write something short about the intentions of the comic, because underneath it all it is good.

Jonny

Jonny,

I vehemently disagree with you on the idea of printing my intentions along with my comic. I think that explaining the point of my work before anyone sees it defeats the purpose of creating art.

While I appreciate your position in terms of other people misunderstanding, I would rather have everyone in the world misunderstand my comics, before I would compromise my artistic intentions.

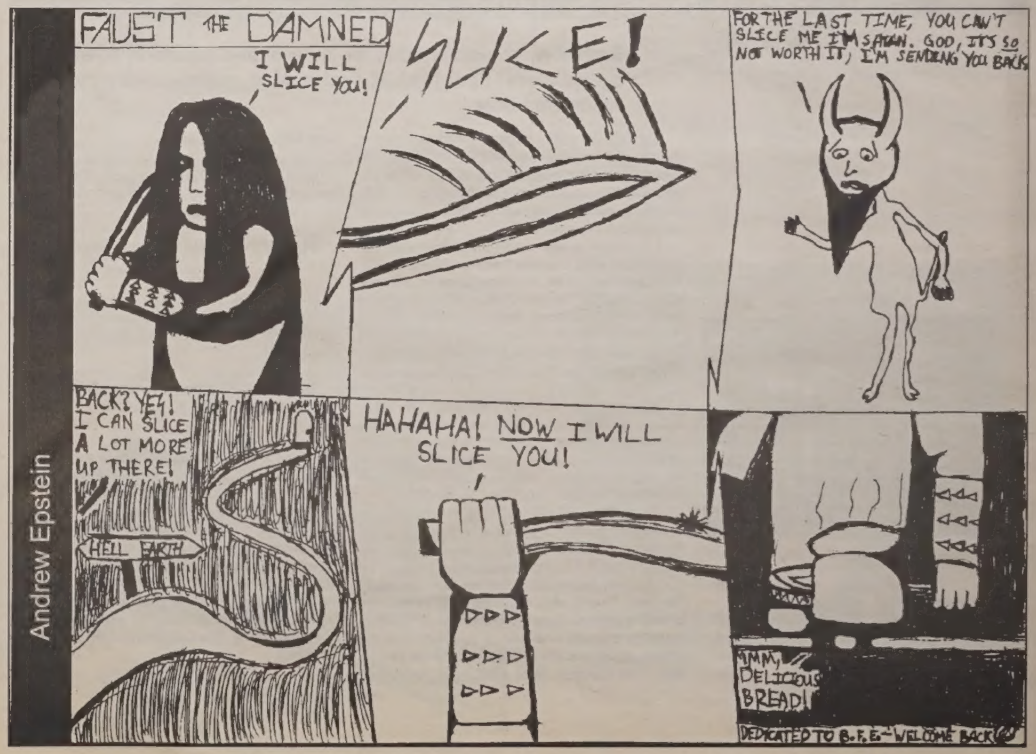
I give no religion or religious organization my affiliation as I feel that the movement towards religion only breeds hatred and misunderstanding. However I long for peace and tolerance between all faiths, sects, sexual persuasions, etc. But I feel that movement away from religion will help us understand each other better.

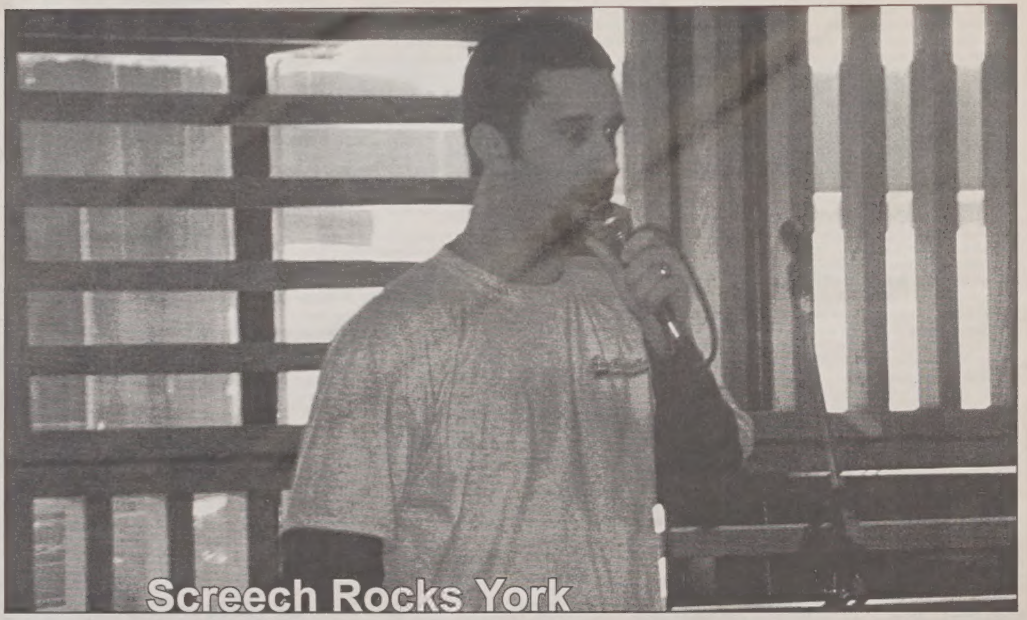
If any of my comics have religious connotations, then that is the message I'm trying to get out. I want to make it clear to you, that while I don't share your views, I respect your position, and appreciate the fact that you have an opinion at all, as most people on this campus are horribly apathetic.

Andrew

Phew! Well that's all the time I have for this week. But the mailbag is empty now, so please if you have an opinion then send it on in. I will give it full attention.

Until next week,
Andrew





Screech Rocks York

And I Met Him

Sachin"When I wake up in the mornin' and the alarm gives out a warnin' I don't think I'll ever make it on time..." Hingoo
Associate Editor

Tuesday, February 11 was a hallmark day in my life. On that day, I braved the blistering cold and navigated the labyrinth that is York University before ending up in one of their *two* food courts to witness a spectacle the likes of which I thought I'd never see in my lifetime.

It is a sight to see – over a hundred York students (and me) crammed alongside Mr Greek, Taco Bell, and other fatty franchises in anticipation of what is to follow. The scene reminds me of one from my childhood, waiting patiently with my parents in a Toys R Us for one David Hasselhoff during his Knight Rider days. Oh, the memories.

But before I get the chance to reminisces, the man himself appears.

Introduced as "Dustin Diamond" for some reason, Screech takes the stage, hunching only slightly to a mixture of laughter, hollers, and profanity from the still-amassing crowd. He greets us, not with his signature happy-go-lucky "hey Mister Bellllllding", but with "what's up, fuckers?"

I'm shocked, to say the least. Profanity from Screech? I'm not sure I like where this is going. Screech "entertains" us with some pretty obscene stand-up that is only moderately funny because it's coming from the mouth of that kid from Saved By The Bell. Finally, after much too long, he decides to take questions from the audience. Screech is evidently the only one who is surprised that the first ten questions are all related to Saved By The Bell. The dialogue, from what I can remember, went something like this:

GUY WITH AFRO: Hey Screech, what was the deal with Jessie being addicted to those caffeine pills, man?

SCREECH: I really don't know. I was just reading a script.

GIRL WITH GLASSES: Screech, do you remember the time you had that party at your house and Zach broke your mom's statue of Elvis?

SCREECH: My name is Dustin, and that never really happened. Next question?

This goes on for nearly an hour. Screech gets more and more upset as the Q and A continues, with mention only of Saved By the Bell. Apparently, he has done several projects, including eighteen movies, since the end of the series. Have you seen any of them? Me neither. Eventually, the thrill begins to wear thin and we leave, but not without a picture and an autograph from Screech, who, let's be honest, is no Avril Lavigne . After all, the next time you see this guy on TV, it'll probably have something to do with him exposing himself in a public place. Go forth, brave hero, and make me proud.

• University of Toronto at Scarborough Police •

Summary of

INCIDENTS

University of Toronto Police at Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON M1C 1A4
Telephone: (416) 287-7398 Fax: (416) 287-7641
E-Mail: police@scar.utoronto.ca <mailto:police@scar.utoronto.ca>

In keeping with our community policing philosophy, the following occurrences are being brought to the attention of the University Of Toronto community. If you have questions or information about any of these incidents, please do not hesitate to contact the Duty Corporal at (416) 287-7398.

Date: February 21, 2003

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Feb. 14/03 @ 6:50 am; UTSC Police investigated a motorist for a driving offence.
Ref: 03-720-0802-009

Feb. 14/03 @ 8:58 am; UTSC Police investigated a motorist for a driving offence.
Ref: 03-720-0802-010

Feb. 14/03 @ 12:01 pm; UTSC Police issued a male a Provincial Offence Notice for a driving offence.
Ref: 03-720-0802-011

Feb. 14/03 @ 12:18 pm; UTSC Police issued a female a Provincial Offence Notice for a driving offence.
Ref: 03-720-0802-012

Feb. 14/03 @ 4:44 pm am; UTSC Police investigated a motorist for a driving offence.
Ref: 03-720-0802-013

Feb. 15/03 @ 2:30 pm; UTSC Police responded to a Phase 2 residence unit for a medical call. A female student was transported to hospital for treatment.
Ref: 03-001-200G-008

Feb. 17/03 @ 4:30 pm; A female motorist reported that her vehicle had been damaged while parked in the outer Overflow parking lot. Damage approx. $900.
Ref: 03-711-0251-005

Feb. 18/03 @ 9:45 am; A female motorist reported that her vehicle had been damaged while parked in inner parking lot C. Damage approx. $1026.
Ref: 03-711-0701-006

Feb. 18/03 @ 10:25 am; UTSC Police responded to an intrusion alarm on the 2nd level of the Science Building. The alarm was determined to be false.
Ref: 03-31

Feb. 18/03 @ 8:20 pm; A UTSC student reported the theft of her property from a 3rd level Bladen Building study room. Value approx. $400.
Ref: 03-430-200B-006

Feb. 19/03 @ 12:45 am; UTSC Police investigated a motor vehicle collision on the south residence Ring Road. Both drivers were advised to attend a Collision Reporting Centre.
Ref: 03-710-0802-004

Feb. 19/03 @ 9:14 am; UTSC Police responded to an intrusion alarm on the 2nd level of the Science Building. The alarm was determined to be false.
Ref: 03-35

Feb. 19/03 @ 2:20 pm; A female UTSC student filed a complaint of sexual harassment. Suspect made known, possible Student Code of Conduct review.
Ref: 03-006-0701-001

call for nominations

COUNCIL of the UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO at SCARBOROUGH and PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE 2003 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Nominations are invited for candidates to fill undergraduate student vacancies on Council of the University of Toronto at Scarborough and Planning and Budget Committee

for the 2003/2004 session

COUNCIL of the UNIVERSITY of TORONTO at SCARBOROUGH

Undergraduate students: 16 vacancies

PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Undergraduate students: 2 vacancies

For the purpose of the elections, undergraduate students are defined as those students registered at the University of Toronto at Scarborough in at least one half-course in the Fall/Winter Session or who are registered in a co-operative program.

Nominations close March 10, 2003

Election information is available from room S406 and the SCSU Office (B330).

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events

events

If you know of an event that might benefit from a little bit of buzz (i.e. Ticketmaster is not involved) let us know by sending an email with "EVENTS" in the subject line to: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

***The Underground* and its staff do not guarantee any information printed in this listing. Do to the often sketchy nature of such events, the details are liable to change, or be outright false. Make use of any contact information provided beforehand.... and otherwise, have fun!**

Feb. 26 - Healthy Relationships Workshop in B359 12-2pm (open to women and transfolk), Anti-Oppression Workshop in S357 2-4pm, Media Workshop in B264 5-7pm.

Feb. 26 trade: queer things Spring issue launch featuring the Barcelona Pavillion and Vollrath. 9 pm. $4. B-Side. 129 Peter.

Feb. 26 AKUFEN Glide celebrates six years with critically acclaimed DJ Akufen (Force Inc.), Deadbeat, Mike Shannon, Tim Hecker and residents Denise Benson and Andrew Allsgood. Gypsy Co-op (817 Queen West). $10 door. 416-703-5069.

Feb. 26 - Get a job, lazy-ass! How To Find Work In Tough Times Seminar. 11am-1pm. Sign up in S302.

Feb. 26 Cryonics. Lecture on extending the human lifespan through cryonics. 6: 30 pm. Free. Parliament Library, 269 Gerrard E. 416-862-3193.

Feb. 26 Get Ready to Roll. Friends for Life Bike Rally launch party and pre-registration. 7 pm. Free. Le Petit Liban, 580 Church. 416-506-1400 ext 30.

Feb. 26 International Women's Day 2003 Planning meeting. 6-8 pm. Free. Women Working with Immigrant Women, 489 College. 416-963-4420.

Feb. 26-28 - Hart House Film Festival. Featuring known and unknown directors. Visit http://hhfb.sa.utoronto.ca/gala2003.html for more info.

Feb. 27 - WENDO (Teaching Studio at the Key) 2:15-4:15pm (exclusive to women and transfolk) Independent Film Showing (B264) 5-7pm.

Feb. 27 SCSU Spring Election Candidate Forum

Feb. 27 SCSU Social

Feb. 28 Detroit's DJ Dez with Greg Gow and Stretch & Hooker. Element Bar (553 Queen West). $tba. 416-359-1919.

Feb. 28 DJ Krush makes a rare local appearance as part of CMW along with Wabi. The Opera House (735 Queen East). $20 advance. Limited wristbands.

Feb 28 Arrivals and Departures by Carol Shields. A reading in the Leigha Leah Browne Theatre. PWYC. Info: 416-287-7076

Mar. 1 Eddie Amador stops by the weekly Bang party along with residents Evil P, Dino & Terry, Micheal Drury and more. System Soundbar (117 Peter). $15 before midnight, $20 after.

Mar. 3 - Environment Week Opening Day 9am to 5pm in the Meeting Place. Displays from various organizations.

Mar. 3 - Make Your Own Monkey Man! Pat Venditti speaks in the Student Village Centre about Genetically Modified Organisms followed by Q&A and coffee. 1pm-3pm

Mar. 4 - A panel discussion in the Student Village Centre on Global Warming. 9-5. Limited seating. RSVP if interested to 2ndn@utsc.utoronto.ca

Mar. 4 Koop performs live, along with DJ sets courtesy of Dee Jay Nav, Aki, Jason Palma and John Kong. Lee's Palace (529 Bloor West). 9 pm. 19+. $12.50 advance. Tickets at Play de Record and Rotate This.

Mar. 5-6 SCSU Spring Elections

Mar. 6 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS THE SEVENTH ANNUAL KEITH DAVEY LECTURE 4:30 p.m.
The Isabel Bader Theatre
93 Charles Street West
(Museum Subway)
FREE ADMISSION
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY
http://vicu.utoronto.ca/alumni/davey.htm

Mar. 6 - Environmentally Friendly businesses that actually turn a profit. Talk/discussion by Bob Willard. 2-4 in S309.

Mar. 6 - It's not just vegetables- Organic dinner in the Attic. 6pm-8pm. Limited seating. RSVP if interested to 2ndn@utsc.utoronto.ca

Mar. 6 - Keith Davey Lecture. The American Rome. Isabel Bader Theatre (93 Charles St. W.). 4:30pm. Free.

Mar. 7 Milk and Goldclub present **a special showcase party for the Naked Music** deep house label featuring Mauricio Aviles and Andy Caldwell. Inside (218 Richmond West). $tba.

Mar. 9 - You suck at learning! Last day to cancel that Winter Session class that you haven't been to in a month and you skipped the midterm because you were SO HIGH.

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BOSS

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Deadline for applications is April 4, 2003.

Avril count this issue: